ORIGIN ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-443
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HANDLING INDICATOR

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TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: June 8, 1968

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN 11 1968

SUBJECT : Internal Security Report

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE OCT 1987
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. There were few new developments on the internal security front and the basic situation did not change.

2. One story of possible interest was contained in press reports to the effect that one of the unidentified bodies in the May 11 guerrilla/Army clash near La Union, in the Department of Zacapa, was that of FAR leader Cesar Montes. According to this version, Montes' body, along with that of a Cuban trainer, were removed by the guerrillas before positive identification could be made. However, the press reports added that neither the Minister of Government nor the Army Public Relations office could confirm the reports [redacted].

3. A somewhat disturbing development was the release from jail of a [redacted] suspected communist for "lack of evidence." Also disturbing was a lower court decision that there was insufficient evidence in the case of 11 men picked up May 1967 for subversive activity [redacted]. Included in this group were Francisco RAMIREZ Corado, a PGT and FAR resistance leader, and other PGT activists. This decision will now be reviewed by a Court of Appeals.

COMMENT: If the lower court decision is upheld in the Appeals Court, it will be a blow to the President's effort to persuade the security forces of the merits of due process of law as an anti-insurgent tactic.

4. On the other side of the coin the police captured Juventino CATALÁN Beltrán, accused of being a member of the FAR and having participated in the Cipresales raid, March 7, 1968.

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FORM DS-323
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